



**District Personnel**  
Megan Baker,  
District Technician  
Beth Eeftink,  
District Clerk  
Kimberly Overton  
SALT Technician

**Spring 2010**

**Bollinger County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District**

406 E. Main, P.O. Box 199,  
Marble Hill MO 63764  
573-238-2671, Ext. 3



Michael Squires,  
District Conservationist  
Selma Mascaro,  
Resource Conservationist  
Kendric Holder  
Soil Conservationist

Missouri Dept. of Conservation  
Roger Frazier,  
Private Land Conservationist

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Roger VanGennip—Chairman; L.L. Bridges, III—Vice Chairman; Saliena Dowd—Treasurer  
Ronnie Reagan—Member; Donna Aufdenberg—Secretary

*You're invited to attend*

**The Bollinger County  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
Customer Appreciation Day!**

**The Bollinger County SWCD Board and Employees  
would like to thank you, the landowner, for making the  
Soil & Water Conservation Program successful.**

**Date: Friday, April 23, 2010**

**Time: Come in anytime between 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Where: USDA Service Center, Marble Hill**

**\* Lunch will be provided \***

**No RSVP Required**

- **SWCD, NRCS, FSA and MDC staff will be present to answer questions regarding conservation practices, equipment, and cost-share opportunities.**

## CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

### GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Continuous grazing is the most common grazing practice implemented by landowners with livestock. The continuous grazing usually results in a plant community of less-desirable species. When livestock graze continuously without restriction, they eat the most palatable forage first. If plants are repeatedly grazed without allowing time for their roots to recover and leaf, they will die. Plants that are not eaten by livestock will mature and go to seed. This will cause the plant populations of desirable plants to increase.



An option for landowners to offset the negative affects of continuous grazing is by applying a rotational grazing system on their property. Rotational grazing allows the pasture time to rejuvenate from the constant livestock feeding and traffic. With a grazing system in place livestock producers can extend their forage supplies and carry more animals per paddock.

Rotational grazing is accomplished by dividing your pasture into smaller pastures or paddocks with a water source for each paddock. The livestock are then moved from one paddock to the next. Grazing systems can be very different from one farm to another. Many different factors determine the setup of a grazing system and are personalized to fit your property and your own personal needs. The best way to determine the size and set up of a grazing system for your property is to contact the office for technical assistance.

The Bollinger SWCD has cost-share available to assist landowners interested in implementing grazing systems. Cost-share is available for the components used to cover the following: Water Development, Water Distribution, Fence, Lime and Seed. Please keep in mind that there can be a wait for cost-share due to limited funds per fiscal year. To be eligible for cost-share for a grazing system you will be **required** to attend an approved grazing school. There are grazing schools offered every spring in this area. The school consists of a two day class and field visit. If you have any questions regarding grazing systems or would like to request technical assistance, please contact the office at 573-238-2671 ext. 3.

## Southeast Region Management Intensive Grazing School

Management Intensive Grazing School will be offered May 12 & 13 at MAC North College Center in Park Hills, Missouri. Classes will be held between 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. A field visit is planned for the second day, please dress appropriately. The Grazing School is presented by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Missouri Extension, and the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council.

### **Featured Topics:**

- Art and Science of Grazing
- Evaluation of Farm Resources
- Watering Systems
- Graziers Arithmetic
- Fencing Systems
- Pasture Evaluation
- Forage Diversity and Plant Growth
- Matching Livestock Needs & Nutrition
- Economics of Grazing Management
- Plant Nutrient Management
- Grazing System Layout and Design

### **You May Also:**

- See example maps of systems
- Hear how to reduce hay usage
- Learn how to graze year-round
- Network with fellow graziers

### **Registration Fee Covers:**

- Missouri Grazing Manual
- Forages and Weeds of Pastures
- Grazing Stick

Deadline to register is May 7, 2010. Enrollment is limited on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Patty Coffman at (573) 421-6779.



## **REGISTRATION**

Cost: \$75 per person, (\$35 for second person with paid full registration). Please make checks payable to "Ste. Genevieve SWCD" and mail along with this form to :

**Ste. Genevieve SWCD  
711 Point Basse Sr.  
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670**

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): please print \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline May 7, 2010**

**Where Did The Gobblers Go????**  
**By: Roger Frazier**  
**Private Land Conservationist**  
**Missouri Department of Conservation**

With the spring turkey season opener just around the corner there are many landowners (hunters) waiting with anticipation to get a crack at one of those big gobblers they saw several times last fall. Some landowners will get their crack and for others they will be lucky to see a turkey. This happens every year throughout our region regardless of the many excuses some folks try to use. I receive numerous phone calls following the spring turkey season from those landowners that didn't fair very well. When I have an opportunity to assess the habitat available on the piece of property it almost always has very little or no brooding habitat available.

In the spring the gobblers are looking for hens and the hens are looking for a great place to nest near high quality brooding habitat. If you will provide the high quality brooding habitat you will attract the hens and those gobblers looking for them. I will attempt to briefly explain the difference between fall/winter and spring/summer habitats. I will also provide some recommendations on how you can create quality brooding habitats on your property.



What are turkeys looking for in their fall and winter habitats? They are looking for food, some areas that offer protection from the weather, and quality historical roost sites. The foods will mostly be seeds, acorns, greens, and insects when available.

What are turkeys looking for in the spring/summer habitats? As stated earlier the gobblers are looking for hens and the hens are looking for locations to raise their young. As a land manager you will need to ensure there is a large amount of quality brooding habitat. The nice thing is brooding habitat is not difficult to create and you have a number tools available to build it. Turkey brooding habitat is described as a diverse plant community approximately three feet tall with 25 to 75% bare ground and loaded with high protein insects. If you can envision a hen turkey stretching her neck to see over the top of the vegetation while her poults are scurrying back and forth below her to catch insects, you will have a good understanding of what you are looking to create.

There are several ways to create this type of habitat but make sure the site is large enough to provide some protection from predators. The hen and poults will be spending 24 hours a day 7 days a week for the first 20 days of life on the ground, so try to provide areas at least 1 acre in size and preferable 3 or more acres. You can idle a crop field or food plot for a year. I prefer to do this the year following my corn planting, because the standing corn stalks offer great overhead cover and the annual weeds attract a lot of insects. You can delay haying legumes like alfalfa and clover until after July 15. Disking old field areas every three years in October will create an excellent brooding habitat. All of the previously listed ideas are for open land management, I will now offer some options for your timber land. One of the most important management activities is timber stand improvement (TSI). Not only does this practice create quality brooding habitat but it is also beneficial to your forest health. If you are lucky enough to own a glade and chose to manage it you will create some of the best brooding habitat available anywhere. A woodland is another great brooding habitat to manage. I describe a woodland as those locations where the thinner soils greatly restrict the tree growth rates. When these sites are managed the tree spacing becomes farther apart and a diverse herbaceous plant community develops. The management tools of choice for the two previous land types are prescribed fire and a chainsaw. If you chose to use prescribed fire, make sure you attend training classes and learn to use it safely.

I hope this information will help you improve your spring turkey habitat and if you have questions or need additional guidance please do not hesitate to contact me at 573/238-2671 ext 111.

## A Conservation Legacy Reaching Back to 1935



2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the beginning of the federal commitment to conserving natural resources on private lands. Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change.

Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment.

Since the beginning NRCS has worked with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

Science and technology are critical to good conservation. NRCS experts from many disciplines come together to help landowners conserve natural resources in efficient, smart and sustainable ways. Whether developed in a laboratory or on the land, NRCS science and technology helps landowners make the right decisions for every natural resource. NRCS succeeds through partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America's natural resources.

We work at the local level, – in field offices at USDA Service Centers in nearly every county in the Nation. NRCS employees' understanding of local resource concerns and challenges result in conservation solutions that last.

**In the words of the first NRCS Chief, Hugh Hammond Bennett – “If we take care of the land, it will take care of us.”**

### **Deadline Approaching to Apply for Energize Missouri Agriculture Grants**

The Energize Missouri Agriculture Cost-Share Program is a cost-share grant for agricultural operations statewide to purchase renewable energy equipment or to make energy efficient improvements within agricultural operations. The grants will fund up to 75 percent of the cost of an energy saving project with a cap of \$5,000 per applicant.

Some of the eligible projects include solar powered water systems such as pumps, panels, pipe, tanks, or solar powered fences; global positioning system (GPS) guidance system for tractors, combines, and sprayers; and irrigation equipment improvements. For a list of additional eligible projects or to apply for a grant, visit the website at <http://dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissouriagriculture.htm>. Applications will be accepted until April 20, 2010.





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USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write  
USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building,  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Bollinger County SWCD  
P.O. Box 199  
Marble Hill, MO 63760

**Visit us on the  
Web!**

**[www.swcd.mo.gov/  
bollinger](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/bollinger)**

To remove your name from our mailing list or have  
any questions please call 573-238-2671 ext. 3.

### **Equipment Rental**

The Bollinger County SWCD &  
Missouri Department of  
Conservation have the following  
equipment available for  
completing your farming practices:

**7' No-till Drill—\$9.00/acre**  
**10' No-till Drill—\$9.00/acre**  
**Pasture Renovator—\$6.00/acre**  
**Root Plow—\$10.00/day**  
**Wildlife Food Plot (1 row) Planter**  
**Burn Spray Trailer**